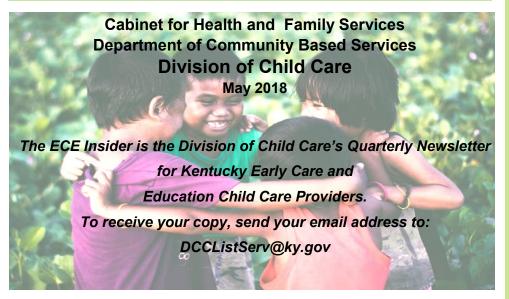
ECE INSIDER

May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month



https://www.pexels.com/photo/four-toddler-forms-circle-photo-754769

Important Notes About Recent Changes to the Health and Safety Regulations

Changes to the following regulations were filed on an emergency basis in February 2018:

922 2:090E - Child-care center licensure http://www.lrc.ky.gov/kar/922/002/090E.htm

922 KAR 2:100E – Certification of family child-care homes http://www.lrc.ky.gov/kar/922/002/100E.htm

922 KAR 2:120E – Child-care center health and safety standards http://www.lrc.ky.gov/kar/922/002/120E.htm

The primary purpose of making changes to these regulations was to remove the outdated background check requirements, as the state has moved to the new federally required fingerprint-based checks, as described in 922 KAR 2:280. In addition, feedback was considered from the Governor's Red Tape Reduction Initiative. As a result, several requirements that seemed overly restrictive for Family Child Care Homes were removed.

The definition of toddler was changed in the regulations to align across all child care regulations and with the federal definition. While this did not



DIVISION OF CHILD CARE

MISSION

To provide leadership in building high quality, community based access to child care and early learning that enhances health, safety, permanency, well-being and self-sufficiency for Kentucky's children and families

Contact:

Christa Bell Director 502-564-2524

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

REGULATION CHANGES1
NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS2
NBCP UPDATES AND FAQ'S3
CCAP UPDATES6
CCAP COUNTY BREAKDOWN7
ALL STARS UPDATE8
PD CLOCK HOURS10
PENN STATE BETTER KIDS11
PLAYGROUND SAFETY12
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND BRAIN DEVELOPMENT15
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND
ACTIVE SUPERVISION16
RESOURCES18

Important Notes About Recent Changes to the Health and Safety Regulations continued...

change staff-to-child ratios for each age group, the change of definition did have an impact on the "Infant and Toddler Play Requirements" in 922 KAR 2:120. The Cabinet received over seventy (70) comments from the public during the public comment timeframe, the majority of which pertained to this section of this regulation. The Cabinet is currently working on the Statement of Consideration and amendments that will be made as a result of public comment. As there will be changes to the regulation language prior to the ordinary regulation being adopted, the Division of Child Care and Division of Regulated Child Care have agreed that surveyors will not cite providers on the changes that were made to Section five (5) of regulation 922 KAR 2:120 in the emergency version until the ordinary regulations are adopted later this summer.



https://pixabay.com/en/update-upgrade-board-renew-improve-1672385/

Three New Members Appointed to Child Care Advisory Council

Three new members were appointed to the Child Care Advisory Council in April 2018 to fill vacant seats. The newly appointed members are:

- Kimberly Gipson, Family Care Early Childhood Manager of the Family Care Center. Ms. Gipson was appointed to represent child-care center providers.
- Brenda Bowman, Chief Operating Officer of Southside Christian Child Care and Preschool. Ms.
 Bowman was appointed to represent the private sector knowledgeable of education, health, and development of children.
- Sandra Woodall, Team Lead and Early Childhood Specialist with 4C for Children of Northern Kentucky. Ms. Woodall was also appointed to represent the private sector knowledgeable of education, health, and development of children.

These three new appointees join nine other appointed members and six ex-officio members to form the full council. The Child Care Advisory Council convened for the first time in October 2017, and meets quarterly. The purpose of the Council, as outlined in KRS 199.8983, is to advise the Cabinet on matters affecting the operations, funding, and licensing of child care centers and family child-care homes. The Council should provide input and recommendations for ways to improve quality, access, and outcomes.

Meetings of the Council are open and audience members are welcome. Future meeting dates for 2018 are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on July 24 and October 23 at the Bluegrass Community Action building, 111 Professional Court, Frankfort.

National Background Check Program Update

The National Background Check Program (NBCP) officially rolled out to all providers on March 5, 2018. Despite the high volume, the system is working well overall. So far, there are over 1,000 users on the KARES site. Over 8,200 applications have been initiated as of May 3 with 3,800+ being completed.

If you don't have a Kentucky Online Gateway (KOG) account, or if you have KOG account but KARES does not appear in your apps, please contact Division of Child Care's Help Desk by emailing CHFSDCCNBCP@ky.gov. In the body of the email, please provide the first and last name of the person requesting access; the name of the facility/provider; the license number; and the email address to be associated with the KOG account. You can confirm the email address associated with your KOG account by clicking on "Welcome, Your Name." Then click on "My Info". DCC can then send you an invitation to KOG and KARES. Once you receive that invitation, you will need to open the email and follow the prompts.

For any technical assistance, KARES access, etc., please contact the DCC Helpdesk at CHFSDCCNBCP@ky.gov or by calling 502-564-2524, Option 5. Please do not contact the KOG Helpdesk, KARES Helpdesk or the Kentucky State Police. Given the high volume of emails and calls during this implementation phase, please allow up to 2 days for a response.







https://pixabay.com/en/button-rollover-faq-frequent-ask-2660081

- Do all child care employees have to submit to a fingerprint background check?
 Individuals subject to Background Checks are: those employed by a provider for compensation; contracted employees and self-employed; those who care for, supervise, or have unsupervised access to children in care; and those (adults) living in a family child care home.
- Does this apply to child care employees under the age of 18?
 Employees under the age of 18 will not be required to submit to a fingerprint background check.
 Providers should follow the current process of submitting the DCC-374 Child Care Central Registry Check form to the Division of Child Care along with identifying information (ID, birth certificate or social security card), parental consent, and a \$10 payment.
- Do volunteers have to complete a fingerprint based background check through NBCP?

 No, unless they would have unsupervised access to children. However, you can submit the

 DCC-374 form to the Core Section to receive a completed CA/N check on each volunteer. Please

 make sure to specify the request is for a volunteer by highlighting the word volunteer on the form or

 simply writing the word volunteer under "Other". You will also need to submit identifying information

 (ID, birth certificate or social security card) and \$10 payment.
- Will staff be allowed to work supervised until background checks are returned?
 Yes, you can provisionally hire someone after the applicant has had their fingerprints submitted, but they cannot be left unsupervised with children.

FAQ's continued...

What if an applicant/employee has lived in another state during the last 5 years? What do I
have to do?

A Child Abuse/Neglect Registry check, criminal history check, and sex offender check must be requested from each state in which the person has resided in the last five years. There is a link on the DCC website which provides contact information for each state.

If the person resided in a state which participates in the National Fingerprint File (list can be found on DCC website), you do not have to request a criminal records check in that state. If the state does not participate in the National Fingerprint File system, you will need to request a criminal records check from the state(s). These documents should be uploaded into the KARES system.

What forms do I have to keep?

You will need to keep a copy of the signed DCC-500 (Waiver) and DCC-501 (Disclosure) forms in the employee's personnel file. You may also upload the documents into the KARES system.

• I made a typo when entering applicant information. Should I withdraw the application and start over?

Please contact the CHFS DCC Help Desk. A member of our staff can edit the information. Do not withdraw an application unless a member of the Core Section staff advises you to do so. Withdrawing applications can result in multiple payments and errors.

• When I click on Kentucky Child Abuse Registry link, I'm redirected to the Office of the Ombudsman website. What do I do?

The CA/N check is completed by an auto-match feature. Under Registry Results, you will see the number of matches for your applicant. If there are "0" matches, you will select "Cleared." If there are matches, the applicant can contact the Office of the Ombudsman, Quality Assurance section to discuss the findings that were reported and the possibility of filing an appeal.

- I accidentally selected "Not Cleared" on the Registry Results page. What do I do?
 No payment has been taken at this point. No one is able to edit this information. You will need to withdraw the application and start over. This is the only time you should withdraw an application before contacting Core Section staff.
- Does the hire date entered in the NBCP have any bearing on training hours/requirements?

 No. Since all users are new to the KARES system, KARES will not allow you to reflect a hire date prior to their complete background check being received (fingerprints). You must use the date the system tells you the person is eligible for hire. It is understood that this is not the true hire date for existing staff, but reflects when they became compliant with the new background check requirements. The hire date used by the NBCP/KARES has no bearing on training hours, etc.
- Fingerprints have been rejected. What should I do?

 If fingerprints are rejected, the applicant will need to have their fingerprints taken again using the same Live Scan Fingerprinting form. If the fingerprints are rejected a second time, the system will automatically begin a name-based search.

FAQ's continued...

There are only 4 options for race listed in KARES. Why?

The following races are acknowledged by the FBI:

- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- White

Allow the applicant to choose which category they best fit.

My agency already completes fingerprint based background checks through KSP/FBI. Can those results be used for the NBCP?

No. The employee must submit to the fingerprint background check through the NBCP. Each result is tied to the Division of Child Care's ORI (Originating Requestor Identification) number.

Why do we have to use the NBCP?

Federal regulation requires all states to establish and utilize a national background check program.

How often are fingerprint background checks required?

Federal regulations mandate fingerprint background checks are required every five years unless there has been a 180 day gap in employment.

Where do we go to be fingerprinted?

A list of approved fingerprint location sites is available on the DCC website.

How will I know when a fitness determination has been made?

You will receive an email notification advising a determination is available.



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Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Updates

Child Care Notices in the Provider Portal

On May 5, Child Care Certificate of Agreements, Notice of Changes and Termination Notices became available on the Provider Portal. Child Care providers with portal access will have the ability to view, print, and upload signed agreements to Benefind. Initial child care certificates can be signed and uploaded through the Provider Portal to Benefind for workers to process. A tip sheet is available on the KICCS Portal Launch Site https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dcbs/dcc/Pages/kiccsportal.aspx to give further instructions. Notices and agreements may take up to 24 hours to be available on the portal.

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Billing Team

On April 11, the Division of Child Care sent an email via the DCC Listserv with a revised CCAP billing breakdown. All counties now have a specific worker. Workers are responsible for processing CCAP Billing and facilitating billing inquiries for their assigned counties. A copy of the breakdown can be found on the following page.



https://www.pexels.com/photo/grayscale-photo-of-mother-and-three-children-playing-1028009/

CCAP Payments County Breakdown

CCAP Payments County Breakdown for CCAP Billing Team				
Kristy Smither	Belinda Meece	Karen Sipes	Lahoma Blocker	Rachael Taylor
kristy.smither@ky.gov	Belindac.meece@ky.gov	Karen.sipes@ky.gov	Lahomaf.Blocker@ky.gov	Rachael.Taylor@ky.gov
1-844-209-2657 ext. 5526	1-844-209-2657 ext. 5520	1-844-209-2657 ext. 5514	1-844-209-2657 ext. 5503	1-844-209-2657 ext. 5511
BOONE	JEFFERSON	ADAIR	ALLEN	BATH
BRACKEN	KENTON	ANDERSON	BALLARD	BELL
BULLITT	LEWIS	BOURBON	BARREN	BOYD
CAMPBELL	MASON	BOYLE	BRECKINRIDGE	BREATHITT
CARROLL	NELSON	CASEY	BUTLER	CARTER
FLEMING	OLDHAM	CLARK	CALDWELL	CLAY
GALLATIN	OWEN	CLINTON	CALLOWAY	ELLIOTT
GRANT	PENDLETON	CUMBERLAND	CARLISLE	FLOYD
HENRY	ROBERTSON	ESTILL	CHRISTIAN	GREENUP
JEFFERSON	ROWAN	FAYETTE	CRITTENDEN	HARLAN
	SHELBY	FRANKLIN	DAVIESS	JACKSON
	SPENCER	GARRARD	EDMONSON	JOHNSON
	TRIMBLE	GREEN	FULTON	KNOTT
		HARRISON	GRAVES	KNOX
		JESSAMINE	GRAYSON	LAWRENCE
		LAUREL	HANCOK	LEE
		LINCOLN	HARDIN	LESLIE
			HART	LETCHER
			HENDERSON	MADISON
			HICKMAN	MAGOFFIN
			HOPKINS	MARION
			LARUE	MARTIN
			LIVINGSTON	MCCREARY
			LOGAN	MENIFEE
			LYON	MERCER
			MARSHALL	MONTGOMERY
			MCCRACKEN	MORGAN
			MCLEAN	NICHOLAS
			MEADE	OWSLEY
			METCALFE	PERRY
			MONROE	PIKE
			MUHLENBERG	POWELL
			OHIO	PULASKI
			SIMPSON	ROCKCASTLE
			TODD	RUSSELL
			TRIGG	SCOTT
			UNION	TAYLOR
			WARREN	WASHINGTON
			WEBSTER	WAYNE
			-	WHITLEY
				WOLFE
				WOODFORD

KENTUCKY ALL STARS UPDATES

Early Childhood Care and Education Meets 45% High Quality Goal

Through the Race To the Top Early Learning Challenge grant, the Division of Child Care set the goal of helping 45% of all licensed and certified child care providers to achieve high-quality in the tiered quality rating and improvement system. That goal was met on March 9, 2018. This means that over 45% of programs eligible to participate in Kentucky All STARS have met the quality standards required for a level three or higher! DCC is excited to celebrate this incredible milestone with all of the providers, coaches, administrative staff and community partners who have dedicated countless hours and resources to the improvement of early childhood care and education in Kentucky.

All STARS Administrative Regulation Filed

On April 13, 2018, the Division of Child Care filed 922 KAR 2:270 Kentucky All STARS quality based graduated early childhood rating system for licensed child-care centers and certified family child care homes. The emergency regulation repealed STARS for KIDS NOW and replaced it with Kentucky All STARS. DCC has developed this comparison chart to highlight the difference between the two programs. The new regulation is available for viewing on the LRC website at http://www.lrc.ky.gov/kar/TITLE922.HTM Information on submission of public comments can be found at the end of the new regulation. Questions on participation in Kentucky All STARS can be directed to the Division of Child Care at

Regulated Item	STARS for KIDS NOW	Kentucky All STARS
Participation	Participation in STARS for KIDS NOW was completely voluntary. Programs could enroll or dis-enroll at any time.	Programs accepting public funds must participate in All STARS. Opt-out is available for programs not receiving public funds.
Enrollment	Centers could apply to participate six months after initial licensure and could enter at any quality level. Centers could not participate as a Level 1 for longer than two years.	Centers are automatically enrolled as a Level 1 center upon preliminary licensure or certification. Certified providers can apply to move up immediately. Licensed programs can apply upon regular licensure. Programs may remain at Level 1 indefinitely.
Domains and Standards	STARS for KIDS NOW operated as a block quality rating and improvement system, meaning specific requirements were associated with each level of quality.	All STARS is a tiered quality rating and improvement system. All providers at levels 2-5 must meet the same five required standards. Providers at levels 3-5 must meet point requirements at each level. Providers can choose from a selection of standards in each domain to meet the required points. This tiered system provides greater flexibility for providers to demonstrate how high quality is achieved.
Certificate Period	Certificate length based on level: Level 1 - 1 year from date of issue Level 2 - 2 years from date of issue Level 3 - 3 years from date of issue Level 4 - 4 years from date of issue	Levels 2-5 certificates expire on the participant's license renewal date that approximates three years from date of issue. Level 1 certificates do not expire.

KENTUCKY ALL STARS UPDATES Continued...

Regulated Item	STARS for KIDS NOW	Kentucky All STARS
ERS Visit	ERS visits were required for levels 2-4. Minimum scores were required at each level. Improvement goals were required for level 2 providers. Classroom scores for each scale were averaged for the final rating. ERS visit was required for each new rating.	ERS visit is required for levels 3-5. No minimum score is required for Level 3. The final score is determined by the lowest score from each scale. A new ERS visit is required for each new rating.
Monetary Incentives	Initial and annual achievement awards were granted at all levels. Awards for serving CCAP children (Quality Incentive) was available for levels 2-4. Quality enhancement awards were available for level 4.	No monetary incentives are available at level 1. Initial and annual achievement awards are granted to levels 2-5. Award for serving CCAP children (Subsidy Enrollment Award) is available for levels 3-5.
Annual Quality Review	Interim Report was due each year except on renewal year for all programs levels 2-4. Interim Report was due on certificate anniversary date. Failure to submit Interim Reports resulted in revocation of certificate.	Annual Quality Review (AQR) due each year except on renewal year for all programs level 2-5. AQR due on license renewal date. Failure to submit an AQR results in reduction to level 1.
Re-evaluation	A participant could request a re- evaluation at least 6 months after the issuance of a quality rating. The cabinet could request re-evaluation based on specific indicators as out- lined in the SFKN regulation.	A participant may request a re-evaluation at least three months after a quality rating, not to exceed two ratings in a 12 month period. The cabinet can request re-evaluation based on specific indicators as outlined in the All STARS regulation.
System Supports	Public-facing quality ratings were shared through the Child Care Provider Search. Providers could track ratings and deadlines through the KICCS Provider Portal. All documentation was submitted through fax, mail or email.	Public-facing quality ratings are shared through the Benefind Child Care Provider Search. Providers will have access to the expanded KICCS Provider Portal for All STARS by Fall 2018. Documentation is currently submitted via fax, mail or email. Upon KICCS implementation, all documentation will be submitted electronically through the KICCS Provider Portal.

All STARS Quality Ratings

All STARS Quality Ratings are now available to the public through the DCC All STARS website https://kentuckyallstars.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx. Quality ratings will transition to the Benefind Child Care Provider Search in the summer of 2018.

If you have questions regarding Kentucky All STARS, please contact the Division of Child Care email: kyallstars@ky.gov or call: (844)209-2657.

How to Ensure your Professional Development Clock Hours Count!



Do you find it hard to locate professional development events that meet the needs of your staff? Do you find it is confusing to know what counts for clock hour training requirements for licensing, Kentucky ALL STARS, or specific credentials?

The Division of Child Care (DCC) is committed to assisting you with finding professional development events that meet quality standards and support your growth as an early childhood professional. In collaboration with DCC, ECE-TRIS and Child Care Aware of Kentucky have provided several resources to assist you.

What is Approved training?

For a training to meet the early care and education clock hour training requirements for licensed, certified, and registered Early Care and Education providers, Kentucky All STARS, the Commonwealth Child Care Credential, and the Kentucky Early Care and Education Trainer's Credential it must be;

- Conducted by a Kentucky Early Care and Education Credentialed Trainer,
- Sponsored by a nationally approved organization, or
- Pre-approved by DCC at least 30 days prior to the training.

Steps for Finding Approved Training

- Utilize the Trainer Search option on ECE-TRIS Website which will provide a list of trainers in your area that you can contact for training. Please note: Only Trainers who agreed to post their contact information will show on this search
- Confirm that the presenter holds the KY ECE Credential by asking the trainer directly or contacting the sponsoring training agency.
- Connect with the Child Care Aware Coach for your Region to assist with locating a trainer and or training.
- Search the ECE-TRIS Training Calendar to view the Nationally Approved Organization and a listing of all trainings that have received approval.

If you have questions regarding preapproved training events, please confirm the event has been pre-approved by contacting the Division of Child Care PD Staff or a Child Care Aware Coach in your area. They will be happy to assist you with using the ECE-TRIS calendar.

Contact Information for Assistance and to Learn More

ECE-TRIS website https://tris.eku.edu/ece

ECE-TRIS has trainer and training searches, documents and other resources to assist you in finding Kentucky Early Care and Education Trainers, Nationally Approved Organizations, and Division of Child Care Pre-Approved trainings.

How to Ensure your Professional Development Clock Hours Count! Continued...

- Professional Development staff with the Division of Child Care at 502-564-2524 or <u>DCCPDStaff@ky.gov</u>
 - Please contact the Division of Child Care if you have questions about the training approval process.
- Child Care Aware (CCA) Coaches https://www.kentuckypartnership.org/about/map
 Your regional CCA coach is a valuable resource for professional development assistance.



https://pixabay.com/en/time-clock-head-woman-face-view-1739629

Penn State Better Kid Care Participants

If you are a participant of online training with Penn State Better Kid Care, please be advised that they will no longer be submitting your credit information to ECE-TRIS. If you wish for this credit to be included on your record, you must submit it to ECE-TRIS following the Instructions on the ECE-TRIS Individual Training Form which can be found in the FORMS section.

922 KAR 2:100 - Section 11. The General Requirements of the Family Child-Care Home Environment.

(16) A trampoline shall not be accessible to a child in the care of a provider.

Trampolines are prohibited from use by all children in attendance at a certified family child care home. If a trampoline or exercise trampoline is present on the premises, the provider should create a barrier; i.e., fence or block the area from the children attending the family child care home business.

Playground Safety Claude Stephens

Children play. That's what they do. Given a choice, they would rather be outside playing than any other option available to them. That's not by accident. It's because play, especially outdoor play, is hardwired into how we develop as healthy functioning people that interact with other healthy functioning people. Remove that opportunity from human development and pathologies begin to creep into our being and take root in ways that are hard to dislodge as we mature. As educators responsible for nurturing the development of children, it is incumbent upon us to understand the complexities of play and to provide optimal environments and significant opportunities for children to explore their world in playful ways.

Over time, educators codify pedagogical approaches into their practice. We begin doing things because that's the way we have always done things. Child development and education is an intricate interweaving with variances from child to child. We sometimes get trapped into responding to a situation by making a decision that addresses one issue without full consideration of how that decision is attached to a cascading set of related issues. Periodically, we need to take a deep breath, lean back, contemplate and challenge the assumptions that guide our work. That work of assumption challenging is now taking place around "play," and there is a great deal of recent research on the topic.

Safety is one aspect of play that is far more complicated than it might first appear. There is no question that early childhood professionals want children to be safe. Let's dig into some of the issues around child safety. The first question we need to ask ourselves about safety relates to the time frame we are thinking about. Are we talking about a child's safety in this very moment? Or might we be interested in that child's safety more broadly? Another question we might ask: what role do we play as professionals in providing opportunities for children to practice the skills they need to be safe?



https://pixabay.com/en/boy-child-play-playground-blonde-722420/

922 KAR 2:100 - Section 11. The General Requirements of the Family Child-Care Home Environment.

(17) A swimming pool on the premises shall: (a) Be maintained and free of debris and body waste; (b) Have a water filtering system or be emptied daily; (c) Be supervised when in use; and (d) Be inaccessible to a child when not in use.

(18) An above-ground pool shall have: (a) A stationary wall no less than four (4) feet tall; and (b) Hand holds or foot holds that are inaccessible when the pool is not in use.

Small child size or collapsible swimming pools that do not have a filtering system must be free from debris and body waste and must be emptied daily. If an in ground swimming pool is present on the premises, a fence can be installed to ensure it is not accessible.

Above ground pools must have a stationery wall no less than 4 feet tall. When the pool is not in use the hand holds and/or foot holds must be inaccessible. Move all furnishings and equipment away from the walls of the pool to prevent a child from climbing into the pool. All pools must not be accessible to a child when not in use. Pools should only be accessible when the provider is supervising a swimming activity for the children.

Playground Safety continued... Claude Stephens

If we are only interested in providing safety in the moment, our decisions and practices will look very different than if we are interested in providing skills that lead to safe children more broadly. We often favor safety considerations in the moment over the longer vision of safety in order to protect ourselves and our institutions. We don't want anything to happen to a child on our watch. We are less concerned with the safety of a child once they are out of our control. That's fair, but it's also something to consider. Safety is a skill. It requires practice. Remove all opportunities for a child to encounter risk and you also remove all opportunities for a child to practice with risk. Child development professionals that accept the challenging task of providing children with opportunities to practice with appropriate risk are ultimately supporting safer children. That may require a culture shift for your center, and along with that shift, a different way of communicating with the families you serve.

One way to approach the topic of safety is to separate risk from hazard. Another is to be very clear about what you consider appropriate risk and what you consider inappropriate risk.

Appropriate risk is beneficial to child development. It's something you might plan into a play environment intentionally. It provides opportunities for children to practice and develop their physical, emotional and cognitive skills in an environment that is more controlled than others. Hazard, on the other hand, is not beneficial to child development.

Let's look at an example that may help explain further. A balance beam that gradually gets higher and higher provides risk -- something we may provide for children. But if there is a large crack in that balance beam, or jagged splinters, that presents a hazard. Age appropriate risk is that risk that a child can readily recognize at their developmental age.



https://burst.shop if y.com/photos/little-girl-laughing-behind-hands

922 KAR 2:100 - Section 11. The General Requirements of the Family Child-Care Home Environment. (13) An outdoor play area shall be free of unavoidable danger or risk.

Unavoidable danger or risk may be a number of things; i.e., a railroad track that borders the property, barbed wire fencing that is rusted and accessible, culverts or holes that are not covered, vicious dogs in a neighboring yard, vines that hang low, exposed wiring on the building, wasp nests in the trees. The providers must assure that hazards are removed prior to children using the area.

The outdoor play area must be well drained with no standing pools of water. In addition, the area should be maintained; i.e., grass cut, appropriate ground cover not full of sharp rocks, bugs sprayed as needed. The playground must be in good repair at all times. If anything is broken, it should be repaired immediately. If there are hills or buildings that block the view of the entire play area, the staff should position themselves to assure that all children can be viewed at all times.

Deficiencies Report

With summer upon us, it's time to make sure your outdoor play area is ready. We reviewed the report on deficiencies issued between July 2017 – Sept. 2017. Here were the top outdoor play deficiencies along with how many times these were cited during that time frame:

87x = Licensed #690 Free from foreseeable hazard, well drained, well maintained and visible to staff at all times 66 x = Licensed #695 Protective surface and fall zone for climb, swing and slide 65 x = Licensed #760 Indoor and Outdoor Equipment clean, safe, good repair, etc. 28x = Licensed #700 Fences are safe, stable and good condition 22x = Licensed #685 Free from litter, glass, rubbish and flammable materials

7x = Certified #410 Outdoor play free from unavoidable danger or risk 3x = Certified #415 Outdoor play equipment anchored, appropriate, safe

Playground Safety continued... Claude Stephens

Here are five risks that children gravitate toward. Each of these are defined differently depending on the developmental age:

- Great height children love to climb (Great height to a 2-year-old is getting up on a chair. Great height to a 10-year-old is climbing to the top of a tree.)
- Great speed children love to go fast
- Being hidden children love to find secret spaces
- Being near dangerous situations fire, water, edges
- Using tools that stretch their limits hammers, saws, screw drivers, sharp objects

It may not be your role as a child care provider to provide all of these risks. But it is your role to carefully consider which risks you provide and how. Let's face it, one way or another all children will figure out a way to explore these risks. If we build safe ways to explore risks incrementally over time, children will be safer than if we remove them and hope for the best as they grow older.

One way to think about the what-and-how parts of risk is to consider things through the lens of risk/benefit. Most of us have been trained to perform risk assessments, but we have less practice with benefit assessments. Here's an example: How often do you visit your play environment and focus primarily on identifying what could go wrong? Do you do that more often than visiting your play environment to identify what could go right? In the end, the answer to providing appropriate risk for your children is to do both. Seeking that balance in a thoughtful and deliberate manner requires knowledge, practice, conversation, communication and a plan.

One good resource on the topic is available through the Alliance for Childhood (www.allianceforchildhood.org) as a publication titled *Adventure: The Value of Risk in Children's Play*. Another is a 2.0 hour ECE-TRIS workshop titled *The Opportunities of Risk* available through the Children at Play Network (www.childrenatplaynetwork.com).

* Claude Stephens is the Director of the Children at Play
Network, a project of Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, which is working to
reimagine the landscapes of play for all children. More information is available at
www.childrenatplaynetwork.com.

922 KAR 2:120. Section 4. Premises Requirements. (17) Outdoor activity shall be restricted based upon:

- (a) Temperature;
- (b) Weather conditions; or
- (d) Weather alerts, advisories, and warnings issued by the National Weather Service
 The child care center should assure that children are safe and comfortable when outdoors. Children should be dressed appropriately for the weather conditions.
 There is no approved range indicating high and low appropriate temperatures for outdoor play.

Observe the behavior of the children to determine if they are comfortable outdoors. Shade, ground cover and location will differ from center to center which may affect the child comfort level.

If a weather advisory for your area is issued, you must follow the instructions of the advisory when determining when and for how long to go outside.

If the National Weather Service lists specific hours for the advisory, then the children could still go outside during the non-restricted hours.

922 KAR 2:120. Section 4. Premises Requirements.

- (22) If a child-care center does not have access to an outdoor play area, an indoor space shall:
- (a) Be used as a play area;
- (b) Have a minimum of sixty (60) square feet per child, separate from and in addition to the thirty-five (35) square feet minimum pursuant to subsection (6) of this section;
- (c) Include equipment for gross motor skills;
- (d) Be well-ventilated;
- (e) Be heated; and
- (f) Have a protective surface of at least two
- (2) inches thick around equipment intended for climbing.

All children must have the opportunity for gross motor play. If an outdoor play area is not available, the child care center must provide an indoor space.

Indoor play areas must have a minimum of 60 square feet per child and must be a dedicated play space that includes equipment for gross motor skill development. The dedicated indoor play area must be well ventilated, heated and have a protective surface of at least two (2) inches if climbing equipment is present.

Physical Activity and Brain Development



Physical activity is important for a child's developing brain. Research has shown the importance for a child to be able to have the ability to move around and explore in his/her environment. Physical activity helps with sensory motor development, balance and integrating the movement of both the left and right sides of the body. Physical activity assists with the development of gross motor and fine motor skills. Being physically active helps to establish connections between different parts of the brain. Child care centers are ideal places to foster physical activity. Daily physical activity helps to promote sleep; and the brain needs adequate sleep to grow. Children have improved concentration and thinking skills when they are participating in physical activity. Free play, active play and outdoor play help children learn cognitive skills.

Children's participation in physical activity is essential to their overall health. Numerous reports suggest that children are not meeting daily recommendations for physical activity. A child care center may provide a child's only daily opportunity for active play. Children should play outdoors daily when weather conditions do not pose a significant health risk. Outdoor areas encourage children to develop gross motor skills and fine motor play in ways that are difficult to duplicate indoors.

Children learn from the modeling of healthy behavior. Children's clothing needs to allow them to feel comfortable participating in active play. Child care providers also need to wear clothing and shoes that allow easy movement. Children need time for "free play"; and time for "adult lead play" which includes games such as Duck-Duck Goose, Simon Says, dancing, jumping and skipping to music. Keep physical activity fun!

To help promote physical activity at home with families, child care centers could offer "an active toy library." Balls, hula hoops and small bean bags could be given to families to borrow.

For more information visit the Office of Head Start Early
Childhood & Knowledge Center at: https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/building-dynamic-brain-influences-music-movement-nutrition; and the
Child Care Health Consultation website at: http://www.kentuckycchc.org.

922 KAR 2:100 - Section 11. The General Requirements of the Family Child-Care Home Environment.

(14) Each child in an outdoor play area shall be under the direct supervision of the provider or assistant

Many outdoor play areas have places that are hidden from view (i.e., around the corner of the house or behind a storage building). It is important for the provider or assistant to position themselves so they can see all children at all times. It would be unacceptable for a provider or assistant to leave the children outdoors and unattended for any length of time. Video monitors, baby monitors, and walkie-talkies may not be used as a substitute for direct supervision

922 KAR 2:100 - Section 11. The General Requirements of the Family Child-Care Home Environment.

- (15) Outdoor stationary play equipment shall be:
- (a) Securely anchored;
- (b) Developmentally appropriate; and
- (c) Safe.

All equipment used in your play area needs to be securely fastened in the ground to ensure children's safety when in use.

If the play area contains crawl spaces it is imperative that the space be wide enough for an adult to be able to access at any time.

Children must have an adequate amount of developmentally appropriate materials, toys and equipment for children to use on a daily basis.

922 KAR 2:120. Section 2. Child Care Services.

(3)(a) Each center shall maintain a child-care program that assures each child will be: 1. Provided with adequate supervision at all times by a qualified staff person who: a. Ensures the child is within scope of vision and range of voice; or b. For a school-age child, within scope of vision or range

Supporting Physical Activity Through Active Supervision

5-2-1-0, Healthy Numbers for Kentucky families promotes one hour or more of physical activity daily for young children. As children explore, move and play, they are able to practice fundamental gross motor skills like jumping, climbing, running, striking objects, balancing, catching and throwing. For children to master these skills they need repeated experience, adult encouragement and a safe environment. One concern about engaging in active play is the risk of injury, however providing active supervision helps ensure that our children are moving in a safe environment.

Active supervision requires focused attention and intentional observation of children at all times. This includes time spent during active play as well as transitions, rest and meals. Staff must also be aware of each child's development and abilities to anticipate their actions, get involved and possibly redirect them when necessary. This continuous monitoring helps children learn and play safely.

The Office of Head Start has outlined six simple strategies that describe active supervision concisely:

1. Set Up the Environment

Staff set up the environment so that they can supervise children and be accessible at all times. Adults should always see and hear children.

2. Position Staff

Staff carefully plan where they will position themselves ensuring an adult has a clear path to reach all children quickly. Positions take into account children who may need additional support.

3. Scan and Count

Staff are always able to account for the children in their care. Staff constantly scan the entire environment to know where everyone is and what they are doing. They count the children frequently.

4. Listen

Certain sounds, or the lack of sounds, may signal reason for concern. Staff who are listening closely to children can immediately identify signs of potential risks. Consider adding bells to doors to help alert staff when a child leaves or enters the room.

5. Anticipate Children's Behavior

Staff use what they know about each child's individual interests and skills to predict what he/she will do. They create challenges that children are ready for and support them in succeeding. But, they also recognize when children might wander, get upset, or take a dangerous risk. Staff who know what to expect are better able to protect children from harm.

922 KAR 2:120. Section 4. Premises Requirements. (20) An outdoor play area shall be:

Except for an after-school child-care program, located on the premises of a public or state accredited nonpublic school, fenced for the safety of the children;

All outdoor play areas must be fenced. The only exception to this regulation is the school—age child care programs that are located in schools. These programs do not have to have a fenced playground.

If a preschool age program operates on the grounds of a school, the outdoor play area for the preschool program must be fenced.

922 KAR 2:120. Section 4. Premises Requirements. (23) Fences shall be:

- (a) Constructed of safe material;
- (b) Stable; and
- (c) In good condition

Outdoor play areas must be fenced. The fence must be made of a suitable material that is safe, stable and in good condition. Fencing that is damaged, leaning, contains holes, broken planks or sharp points is unacceptable.

If a gate is broken or does not latch securely, it must be repaired.

922 KAR 2:120. Section 4. Premises Requirements. (21) A protective surface shall:

- (a) Be provided for outdoor play equipment used to:
- 1. Climb; 2. Swing; and 3. Slide; and (b) Have a fall zone equal to the height of the equipment

A protective surface should be installed around all play equipment used to climb, swing and slide. 922 KAR 2:120 Section 1 (12) defines protective surface as "loose surfacing material not installed over concrete which includes the following: (a) Wood mulch; (b) Double shredded bark mulch; (c) Uniform wood chips; (d) Fine sand; (e) Course sand; (f) Pea gravel, except for areas used by children under three (3) years of age; (f) Certified shock absorbing resilient material; or (h) Other material approved by the cabinet or designee.

Check the manufacturer's guidelines for each piece of equipment for recommendation on which type of protective surface is best and for the recommended depth of the surfacing product.

The fall zone around the equipment is equal to the height of the equipment, i.e., measure the highest point that a child can climb on the equipment and then measure that distance around the equipment to establish the fall zone.

Supporting Physical Activity Through Active Supervision continued...

6. Engage and Redirect

Staff use their knowledge of each child's individual needs and development to offer support. They may offer different levels of assistance or redirection depending on each individual child's needs.

For more information on Active Supervision visit the Office of Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center. https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/safety-practices/article/keep-children-safe-using-active-supervision



https://www.pexels.com/photo/girl-in-white-long-sleeve-shirt-and-black-skirt-sitting-on-swing-

Consumer Product Safety Commission Public Playground Safety Handbook https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/325.pdf

THIS IS A GREAT SOURCE OF MOVEMENT VIDEOS FOR CHILDREN FOR CENTERS WHO HAVE INTERNET:

Gonoodle – Free movement videos www.gonoodle.com

RESOURCES

RESOURCE	PHONE	WEBSITE OR EMAIL
Benefind Portal for Parent Applications	N/A	https://benefind.ky.gov
Caring For Our Children	1-888-227-1770	http://cfoc.nrckids.org/
CCHC Helpline and Website	1-877-281-5277	www.kentuckycchc.org
Child Care Aware of KY	N/A	https://www.kentuckypartnership.org/about/map
Child Care Regulations Questions	N/A	childcare.regulation@ky.gov
College Coursework or Training Approvals	(502) 564-2524 Ext. 3754	<u>dccpdstaff@ky.gov</u>
Division of Child Care	(502) 564-2524	https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dcbs/dcc/Pages/default.aspx
Division of Regulated Child Care	(502) 564-7962	https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/os/oig/drcc/Pages/default.aspx
ECE-TRIS ECE Training Records Information System	(877) 312-TRIS (8747)	https://tris.eku.edu/ece/
Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood	(502) 782-0200	<u>http://kidsnow.ky.gov</u>
KICCS Helpdesk	1-866-231-0003 Option 6	Chfs.kiccshelpdesk@ky.gov
KICCS Portal Access Requests	(502) 564-2524 Ext 3771	portal.access@ky.gov
Race to the Top Kentucky All STARS	(502) 564-2524 ext. 3822 or 3780	http://www.kentuckypartnership.org/resources/race-to-the-top
To Be Added to DCCListServ Distribution List	N/A	DCCListServ@ky.gov
To Report changes in email address, phone number, services or director	(502) 564-7962	chfsoigrccportal@ky.gov